

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 040540Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2409

AMEMBASUY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 7990

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. ENEMY ATTACKS ON ROUTE ONE PERSIST INTO THE SECOND DAY. ONE FORCE HAS CUT THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN DEY ETH AND A TILE FACTORY 4 KILOMETERS TO THE EAST. A SECOND AND STRONGER FORCE IS ASTRIDE THE ROAD SOME 6 KILOMETERS FROM THE MONIVONG BRIDGE, WHICH CROSSES THE BASSAC INTO PHNOM PENH. FIELD REPORTS INDICATE A FANK POSITION SOUTH OF THE HIGHWAY AT VEAL SBOV WAS UNDER ATTACK SATURDAY MORNING. FANK REINFORCEMENTS INCLUDING M-113 ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS ARE MOVING INTO POSITION ON THE HIGHWAY.

2; IN THE ROUTE 3 FIGHTING, FANK FORCES ON SATURDAY WERE CONSOLIDATING THEIR GAINS MADE FRIDAY ALONG AN 11-KILOMETER FRONT. ENEMY LOSSES HAVE BEEN PUT AT 100 KILLED IN THE TWO DAYS OF FIGHTING WITH 80 WEAPONS RECOVERED BY FANK. IN ADDITION, AIR STRIKES HAVE BEEN CALLED IN UPON THE RETREATING ENEMY.

3. IN THE PREY KRY RELIEF OPERATION SOUTHEAST OF KOV PONG CHHNANG, FANK FORCES ON SATURDAY MORNING WERE ONE AND A

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HALF KILOMETERS FROM LINKING UP WITH THE DEFENDERS.

4. NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, THE FANK 7TH DIVISION ATTACK TO THE NORTH HAS MADE PROGRESS BUT NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY HAS BEEN REPORTED. FANK IS ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE POSITIONS LOST TO THE ENEMY LAST MONTH.

5; ANOTHER MEKONG RIVER CONVOY SAILED INTO PHNOM PENH PORT AT MIDNIGHT KRIDAY HAVING TAKEN ONLY MINOR HARRASSING FIRE WHICH CAUSED NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE ON THE TRIP UP FROM SOUTH VIETNAMESE WATERS. THE CONVOY CONSISTED OF ONE POL VESSEL: ONE MOTORIZED BARGE WITH RICE, THREE TUGS WITH TWO POL BARGES AND ONE RICE BARGE.

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